



HR1355

LRB099 22386 GRL 49801 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Gene
4 Vanderport, who passed away on June 25, 2016; and

5 WHEREAS, Gene Vanderport was a native of Danville; and

6 WHEREAS, Gene Vanderport was a graduate of the University
7 of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; after graduation, he served
8 veterans by working as a social worker at the Veterans
9 Administration Hospital in Danville; and

10 WHEREAS, While serving the veterans at the Veterans
11 Administration Hospital, Gene Vanderport began his lifetime of
12 service to working people by assuming a leadership position at
13 the American Federation of Government Employees union in the
14 hospital; and

15 WHEREAS, Gene Vanderport was so successful in that union
16 leadership position at the Veterans Administration Hospital
17 that he was called to the union's federal level; from there, he
18 was sent across the country as an organizer; and

19 WHEREAS, Gene Vanderport had such an enormous commitment to
20 public education and teachers, students, and support staff in

1 the schools that he left Washington, D.C. and returned to
2 Illinois as a Uniserve Director for the Illinois Education
3 Association of East Central Illinois; and

4 WHEREAS, Gene Vanderport has made major contributions to
5 the civic and social activity of Urbana-Champaign; he is a
6 co-founder of many organizations, such as Socialist Forum, the
7 Living Wage Association of Central Illinois, and the Mother
8 Jones Chapter of Jobs with Justice, the only Illinois chapter
9 outside of Chicago; and

10 WHEREAS, Gene Vanderport has lent his skills to workers who
11 were not in his own union, such as the Staley workers in
12 Decatur and the Campus Coalition of Workers at the University
13 of Illinois; in his last days, he was on the picket line with
14 workers from Clifford-Jacobs in Champaign, the Non-Tenure
15 Track Faculty Union at the University of Illinois, and
16 students, workers, and families protesting the recent and
17 drastic State budget cuts; and

18 WHEREAS, Gene Vanderport was not only in solidarity with
19 and actively supportive of many human or civil rights movements
20 of marginalized or oppressed people, whether they were
21 unionized workers or not, he also spent his time and energy
22 advancing the causes of social justice, labor rights, and
23 political and economic opportunity; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we, along with his family and friends, mourn the passing of
4 Gene Vanderport; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to the family of Gene Vanderport as an expression of
7 our sympathy.